



myOn Reader, Free Online Books



Ed Services is working on communication to parents regarding a **free, optional opportunity** for your students this summer.

The following letter, still in draft form, is being developed to send home to all elementary and middle school parents. We would ask elementary teachers to put them in backpacks next week. Letters with the teacher name, student name and ID printed in them (thru a mail merge) will be sent to each elementary school from the print shop.

School and Community Relations will mail the middle school letters next week.

We are working on the mail merge, and would put the teacher's name at the end of the elementary letter and the principal name at the end of the middle school letter.

This the elementary school letter draft:

Dear Family of student name,

The Waterloo Schools are happy to offer our students a FREE opportunity to read books online throughout the summer. This web-based program is called *myON READER*. We know it's important for students to continue to read through the summer, as it helps them retain what they learned. We hope that parents will explore this or other reading options during the summer months so that students have multiple chances to read books.

As a family in our district you will be provided free access to *myON READER* for the entire summer. It's yours to use whenever you wish through September 15.

myON READER will provide you with access to thousands of digital books that can be read anytime, anywhere there is an Internet connection. It uses technology to let students choose books

- they like to read
- that are at the right reading level.

If you don't have access to the Internet at home, we would encourage you to seek opportunities to use this online option at libraries, churches—wherever Internet access is available to you.

The website to access your student's account is <http://www.myon.com/login/>

At the website, please start to type the name of your child's school this year. A drop down list will appear; just click on the school name.

Your student's Username will be their student id: xxxxxx

The Password will be: read

Once you're logged in, there will be some questions to determine the kinds of books your child likes to read and the right reading level.

If you have any questions, please check www.waterloo.k12.ia.us for the *myON READER Family Guide*, or call our Help Desk at 433-1858, Monday through Friday, 7:15 am to 5:00 pm.

Sincerely,

Teacher name, School name

This is the middle school letter draft:

Dear Family of a SCHOOL NAME Student,

The Waterloo Schools are happy to offer our families a FREE opportunity to read books online throughout the summer. This web-based program is called *myON READER*. We know it's important for students to continue to read throughout the summer, as it helps them retain what they learned. We hope that parents will explore this or other reading options during the summer months so that students have multiple chances to read books.

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Guide, or call our Help Desk at 433-1858, Monday through Friday, 7:15 am to 5:00 pm.

Sincerely,

Principal name, Principal, School name

Summer School Programs



The 2011-12 school year is almost over and it is time to start thinking about summer school programs. Follow this link to see the [2012 Summer School Programs](#).

We also have a listing of [summer activities in the Cedar Valley](#). Have a great summer!

What You Should Know About Iowa Assessments



Students in Waterloo Schools took the [Iowa Assessments](#), formerly ITBS and ITED, earlier this spring. We expect results to be in soon, and we know how anxious everyone is to see how our students did.

To help understand some differences in reports that you and parents will be seeing, we want you to have some basic information. More specific information will be coming to principals and teachers and parents about individual students and groups of students, and to the entire community about the district as a whole in the weeks ahead. We'll stay in touch with all our employees all along the way.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **How are other districts doing?** Since many Iowa districts tested in the fall, they already have their results back. The sampling we have done of other urban schools shows that the percent of students who are proficient in elementary and middle grades is generally lower compared to last year's ITBS, while at high school, they are generally running the same or slightly higher. The testing service reminds us that this is a new test, and results are **NOT COMPARABLE** to the ITBS and ITED. We are being urged to begin a new trend line by considering this year the baseline year. All future testing will be compared to these baseline scores.

2. **Why was the test changed?** It's critical to measure student learning on those things we consider essential for students to learn—that we test what we teach. Iowa, along with many other states, has adopted the “Common Core Curriculum,” which lists the standards for what we want our students to learn. The new Iowa Assessments are aligned to those standards, whereas the old ITBS and ITED were not. Iowa started using ITBS and ITED when we needed a state-wide test because they were

the best we had that was readily available. The Iowa Assessments have been developed to give us **better information**.

3. **What are the differences between old and new tests?** The basic structure of the new Iowa Assessments is fairly similar to the old tests in that the types of tests and length of tests are essentially the same. However, the Iowa Assessments are **more rigorous**, meaning that students have to use higher levels of thinking to answer the questions. The former ITBS and ITED asked questions that required lower levels of thinking than the new Iowa Assessments.

4. **Why is National Standard Score (NSS) now being emphasized rather than just a National Percentile Rank (NPR)?** For the purpose of reporting under No Child Left Behind requirements, the state of Iowa has decided to use National Standard Scores to determine whether or not students are proficient. NSS is more precise, and it can be used to measure growth in students in addition to merely indicating their status. NPR is still an important indicator of how a student compares to his or her peers across the nation, but it will no longer be used for No Child Left Behind reports. All reports for teachers and parents will show both NSS and NPR.

For more about the Iowa Assessments, please visit our website:

<http://www.waterloo.k12.ia.us/interpreting-your-childs-iowa-assessment-scores/>

Family Fun Carnival

East High Schools Women of Tomorrow is sponsoring a:

Family Fun Carnival

Date: Friday, May 18

Time: 4-8 p.m.

Where: East High School @ The High Street Field

Contact: Sharrie Phillips at 433-2400

Fliers:

[WOT Flyer – Carnival](#)

[WOT Salute to Women Flyer 2](#)

Mobile Food Bank



Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC) is collaborating with the Northeast Iowa Food Bank to set up a mobile food bank. The location will be at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 805 Adams Street, on the third Thursday of each month. This will allow families food dollars to stretch further through the month.

Attached is a flier with the dates/times

[Northeast Iowa Mobile Food Bank Schedule](#)

Kansas City Chiefs – Discounted Tickets

The **Kansas City Chiefs** are offering a limited number of **\$39 Discounted Individual Game Tickets** for all Iowa Educators as well as their friends and family for the 2012 home games. This offer will save Educators around 20% per ticket per person off the regular price. These tickets are valid for any and all home games in 2012 and is a great way to come out for a low price. Our 2012 schedule includes the **Baltimore Ravens, Atlanta Falcons, Indianapolis Colts, Carolina Panthers, Cincinnati Bengals, Denver Broncos, Oakland Raiders, San Diego Chargers, Seattle Seahawks and Arizona Cardinals.**

Anyone interested in these or any other Chiefs Ticket Packages can contact, Darren Adams, Assistant Ticket Sales Manager, directly at **(816) 920-4849** or via email at DAdams@Chiefs.NFL.com with any questions or to reserve seats. As always, I appreciate your time and look forward to hearing from you.

May 8, 2012, Principals' Meeting Minutes

To see the minutes of the May 8, Principals' meeting select the document below.

Principals' Minutes
[May 8, 2012, Minutes](#)

Graduation Dates for Waterloo Schools

Here are the dates, times, and locations for graduation.

Expo Alternative Graduation – May 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Young Arena

East High Graduation – May 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the McLeod Center, UNI

West High Graduation – May 25, at 6:30 p.m. at the McLeod Center, UNI



Now Accepting Summer Print Orders



Print Services is now accepting summer orders. The orders will not be billed until after July 1.

Please order any planners, journals, sketchbooks, DRA, or any seat work that you will need for the first few weeks of school. Please submit all orders before the end of the school year, so we can process them over the summer.

If you have, any questions call Roxie Bush at 22237.

Fliers for the Week of May 14-18, 2012

Fliers to K-5th grades for First Baptist Church-Adult English Conversation Practice (posted at middle/high schools)

Adult English Conversation Practice Available

Fliers to 4th-5th grades for Waterloo Lightning Volleyball Camp (posted at middle schools for 6th-7th grades)

Fliers to K-5th grades at Irving for First Baptist Church Summer Program
